

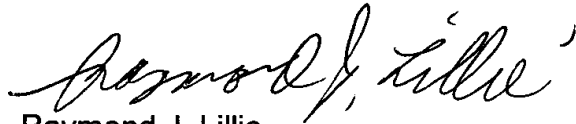
the mesenchymal stem cells process the antigen into an antigen fragment for presentation by the mesenchymal stem cells.

Support for the new Claims 17-20 is found in the specification at Page 5, first and second paragraphs, and in Example 1.

The cited prior art does not disclose or even remotely suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that one may inhibit a T-cell response to an antigen by contacting T-cells with, or administering to a host, mesenchymal stem cells which have been modified to present the antigen by contacting the mesenchymal stem cells with the antigen in vitro.

For the above reasons and others, this application is in condition for allowance, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 be reconsidered and withdrawn and a favorable action is hereby solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Raymond J. Lillie".

Raymond J. Lillie  
Registration No. 31,778

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